

February 22, 2011

Joint Transportation, Infrastructure and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee 1007 E Grand Ave State Capitol Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Senator McCoy, Representative Huseman and the distinguished members of the Joint Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee:

On behalf of Blank Park Zoo's Board of Director's, staff, volunteers and most importantly the 400,000+ children and families from around the state that walk through the Zoo's doors every year, we want to thank you for your financial support of Blank Park Zoo.

We believe we have an incredible Zoo that is working hard to educate the citizens of Iowa and Iowa's visitors about the natural world all while having a positive impact on Iowa's economy. In fact, last year Blank Park Zoo visitors came from each of Iowa's 99 counties, and the Zoo served members from 75 of those counties. Our educators travelled over 35,000 miles educating more than 28,000 children and teachers around the state.

Additionally, Blank Park Zoo just worked with Iowa State University's Economics Department on an economic impact study and in 2010, Blank Park Zoo had a \$12.8 million impact on Central Iowa's economy and the state of Iowa.

Nowhere else in the state is an organization having this type of impact from a conservation and education standpoint, while also having a significant economic impact.

Blank Park Zoo is also excited to report that several new expansion projects are happening within the next few years, all having a direct impact on the number of people we serve and the economic impact of Iowa's Zoo. Projects include:

- Australian Adventure
- Sea Lion Pool
- Hands-on interactive throughout the Zoo
- New entrance through AH Blank Park
- Gateway to Africa
- New Entrance Plaza and Discovery Center

The \$500,000 Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund grant provided by the State of Iowa will be used for the Gateway to Africa exhibit – specifically to build the first building, the Hoofstock Quarantine and winter holding building – estimated costs of \$1.06 million. This building needs to be completed first so animals can be acquired for the new exhibit. Construction will begin March 1 and is estimated to be finished by July 2011.

Because of the Zoo's significant educational and economic impact on the state of Iowa and because every day, Blank Park Zoo continues to expand its programming around the state, we ask you to consider another \$500,000 appropriation to continue the growth and expansion of one of Iowa's treasured and well-respected organizations.

We encourage you to visit Blank Park Zoo and see Iowa's dollars at work! Thank you, again, for your support of Iowa's Zoo, we look forward to continuing our partnership with the State of Iowa.

Regards,

Mark Vukovich Matt Fryar Mike Hubbell
CEO Board Chair Campaign Co-Chair





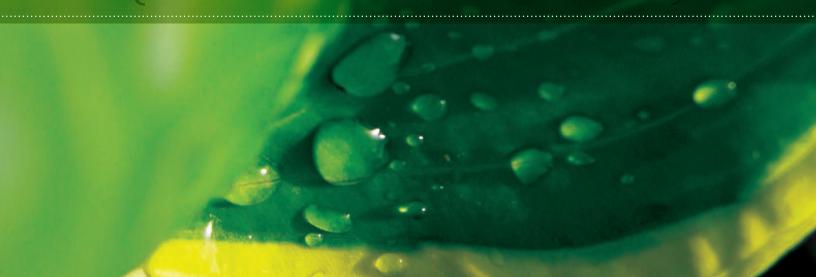
Blank Park Zoo Foundation Inc. | 7401 SW 9th Street | Des Moines, IA 50315 www.blankparkzoo.com



The Blank Park Zoo Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization accredited by the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) which ensures our dedication to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors, and a better future for all living things.



AWORLD OF CHANGE 2008/2009 BLANK PARK ZOO FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT





Letter from the Outgoing Board Chair

I hope this Annual Report finds you well and that 2009 was as exciting and gratifying for you as it was for all of us at the Blank Park Zoo.



I had a unique and wonderful opportunity over the past year to see the Zoo in a new light. While my passion and commitment to the Zoo has always been strong, I more recently discovered what I call the "Zoo Dynamic", as I moved from Chairman of the Board to CEO. The Blank Park Zoo is made up of 32 buildings, 3,000 animals and over 400,000 guests – all of which need to be cleaned, watered and fed up to three times a day. It is about life, family and caring for our world, and I loved being a part of it.

It is with much pride, that we celebrate our 47th year as a zoological park! The Zoo's attendance has reached an all time high, Zoo education has spread knowledge farther than ever before, and Zoo conservation efforts are growing on a local, national and international level. In nearly half a century, the Zoo has become a vital part of our community and state, educating and entertaining people from far and wide.

The tremendous growth we have seen is due in part to the amazingly large legacies left by a few generous and passionate people; the Blank and Stoddard families. Not only have these philanthropists given significant financial gifts to establish a valuable Zoo endowment, but they had a grand vision for the possibilities and immeasurable impact the Zoo would have and will continue to have on Iowa. Not a day passes that I am not sincerely grateful for the many wonderful gifts that have made the Zoo what it is today, and for the amazing management team whose leadership and vision has built a Zoo which is treasured locally and respected internationally for animal exhibition, conservation initiatives and education opportunities.

I had a wonderful time as interim CEO, and stepped aside with confidence and excitement about the many great things we will be seeing from our new leader, Mark Vukovich. We are so pleased with his energy and vision for the Zoo, and wish him well.

I hope you take some time soon to come out to the Zoo and get involved in the many wonderful things we have to offer. You are the Zoo!

Sincerely,

Michael Hubbell

Immediate Past Chairman

milde Ihlall

Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

I became CEO of the Blank Park Zoo on July 1, 2009, and it did not take long to realize what a wonderful place the zoo is...conserving, educating and inspiring!

With exceptional, passionate Zoo supporters, and qualified staff by my side, and a mission unlike any other in Iowa, I look forward to the challenge of continuing and growing the Zoo! Despite the many changes the Zoo has seen this past year, attendance was near a record high and revenue was second highest in history. Education classes were full, special events drew more people than ever before, and the Zoo's mission to inspire an appreciation for the natural world was heard in all of Iowa's 99 counties. Several new partners have greatly improved our quality and service while increasing our profits.

Blank Park Zoo is always working to grow, and with my arrival we once again reflected on the goals and future of Iowa's Zoo. It is my hope to:

- · Expand our educational outreach to include the entire state.
- · Develop partnerships with area educational and research institutions.
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Increase the number of Zoo events to raise awareness and expand revenue.
- Add temporary exhibits to maintain excitement as new exhibits are built.
- Actively give back to the community through other charitable organizations and by reaching out to those at-risk and underserved.
- Expand the Zoo's current conservation efforts on a local, national and international level.
- · Create a new master plan that promotes long-term economic sustainability.
- Expand the Zoo to meet the needs of our visitors and be financially viable for Iowa.

The Blank Park Zoo is an institution of great significance. Aside from providing Iowa citizens the opportunity to experience other parts of the world they may not otherwise have the opportunity to see, Blank Park Zoo is an educational resource and an economic engine for our community. With the support of our many contributors and passionate supporters, it is my goal to grow the Zoo in a long-term sustainable way ensuring it will be here to educate and inspire future generations.

Sincerely,

Mark Vukovich

Chief Executive Officer

Mich Ouberel



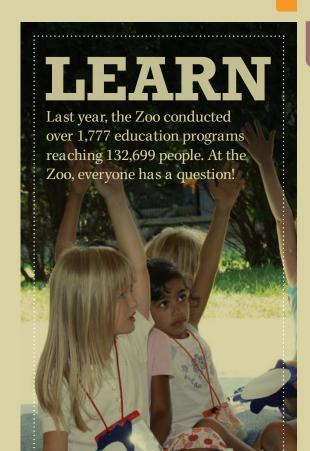


CHANGING HOW PEOPLE View the World



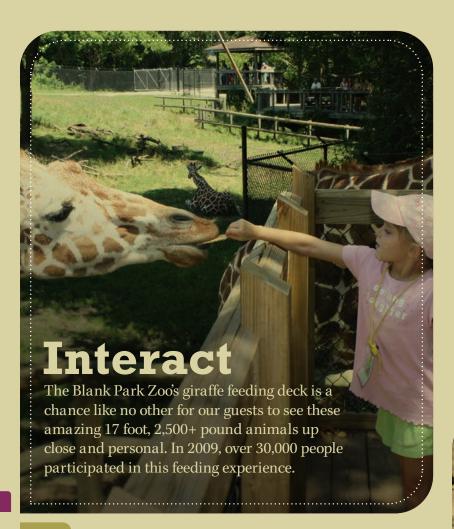
Connect

387,897 people experienced a piece of the Blank Park Zoo in 2009. Our Zoo brings families and animals together!









Touch

Over 40 Zoo animals are used for education programs across the state.



IVIOGEL Blank Park Zoo has over 2,800 individual animals representing 183 different species. It is our priority to provide a lasting experience for our guests, as well as provide a top quality home for our animals.

OBSERVE

To provide visitors with exposure to a wider variety of living creatures, the Zoo hosted a bird show which featured a variety of species including eagles, macaws, falcons, cranes, storks, owls, ravens, parrots, and even a 10-foot wingspan condor. The program was designed to educate Blank Park Zoo guests about bird species and their status in the wild.

CHANGING HOW PEOPLE Protect the World









Help

Volunteers are an integral part of the Blank Park Zoo's success. Hundreds of dedicated Zoo volunteers donated thousands of hours of time and talent. This year's "Good Egg Award" recipient was Pam Levine. Thank you all for your dedication!

Advocate

The Zoo is fortunate to have a dedicated group supporting conservation efforts on-site and throughout the world. In 2009, the Conservation Committee raised funds for initiatives supporting snow leopard, hornbill, osprey, crawfish frogs, red panda, primates, and South American rainforest.



CHANGING HOW PEOPLE Enjoy the World



Dreamnight happens at zoos all over the world. Chronically ill and disabled children gather every June to see animals, have treats, and meet others fighting similar battles. Blank Park Zoo is honored to take part in this event, opening the Zoo for these kids and their families to enjoy!

Discover

In 2009, over 100 early childhood education programs were held at the Zoo.

Adventure

425,000 pieces of candy were handed out at Night Eyes!







Families learned how our animals enjoy the dog days of summer while the kids beat the heat on our inflatable slip'n slide last August!



Socialize

Nearly 4,000 people joined us for our Zoo Brew summer series, sampling beverages from over 15 local wineries and breweries, and enjoying the sounds of some central lowa bands!

Celebrate

Over 300 people grabbed their dancing boots and cowboy hats, and joined us for our 2nd Annual Uptown Hoedown, a countrystyle gala.



One of the Blank
Park Zoo's top
goals is to educate
and inspire while
developing an
appreciation of
the natural world.
Blank Park Zoo's
Kids Kingdom is a
hands-on area where
children, young and
old, can interact
with some of our
animals.



Laugh

Santa was at the Zoo! Over 400 people enjoyed a morning of holiday cheer. After sharing a wish list with Santa and enjoying a delicious treat, they were able to explore the wonders of our indoor tropics.

CHANGING HOW PEOPLE Give to the World

Leadership Gifts

With deep appreciation, the Blank Park Zoo acknowledges the extraordinary support of the following donors. The cumulative total contributed by each of these individuals, foundations and corporations has significantly strengthened our efforts to inspire an appreciation of the natural world.

\$1 Million and Above

Myron* and Jacqueline* Blank BRAVO Greater Des Moines City of Des Moines Elizabeth and David* Kruidenier William C. and Susan Knapp John and Lilyan Stoddard Estate

\$200,000 to \$1 Million

Atlantic Coca-Cola Bottling Company Robert and Gloria Burnett Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust City of West Des Moines Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines Gardner and Florence Call **Cowles Foundation** W.T. and Edna M. Dahl Trust Paul and Sandy Easter **EMC Insurance Companies** Jo and Tom* Ghrist Helen and James* W. Hubbell, Jr. Fred Maytag Family Foundation Meredith Corporation Foundation MidAmerican Energy, Co. Pioneer Hi-Bred International Polk County Board of Supervisors Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino Principal Financial Group Tim and Tony Urban Townsend Engineering Company David and Dolores Wallace Wells Fargo

*deceased

Capital Campaign Gifts

Many thanks to our generous *Wild About Animals* Capital Campaign donors.

\$1 Million and Above

City of Des Moines William C. and Susan Knapp Elizabeth Kruidenier

\$250,000 - \$999,999

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines Helen and James W. Hubbell, Jr. Meredith Corporation Foundation State of Iowa

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Robert and Gloria Burnett
W.T. and Edna M. Dahl Trust
Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino
Principal Financial Group
John Deere Foundation
Stan and Dotty Thurston
Tim and Toni Urban
Wells Fargo

\$25,000 - \$99,999

Bankers Trust/Ruan Family Foundation
Paul and Sandy Easter
Allison and Jim Fleming
Jo Ghrist
Fred and Charlotte Hubbell
Michael and Debbie Hubbell
Steve and Cathy Lacy
Suzy and Chuck Muelhaupt
Honorable and Mrs. Robert D. Ray
Pat and Lou Schneider
David and Dolores Wallace
John B. and Kathy Williams

\$5,000 - \$24,999

Baker Electric, Inc.
Judy Blank
Kaye Condon
Ann Cownie
Russ and Beth Cross
Fran Fleck and Terry Greenley
Matt and Bridget Fryar
Sara Ghrist
Rusty and Jody Goode

James and Pam Hagenbucher Pat Henson HI Foundation Jim and Sheila Hourigan Lisa Kruidenier Mid-American Energy Foundation Mary O'Keefe and Jeff Nall Kevin and Debbie Prust Suku and Mary Radia Terry and Kim Rich Alison and John Ruan IV Loretta and Bob Sieman Kathleen and Jeffrey Stahl Teri Wood TeBockhorst and Andy TeBockhorst Mike and Vickie Tousley Teresa and Howard Wahlert Dean and Lisa Whitaker Ionathan Wilson Connie Wimer and Frank Fogarty Chip and Maria Wittern

\$4,999 and Below Anonymous Alpha Delta Kappa Tau Chapter Kelly and Sherri Aschan Suzanne Reynolds Arnold and Jake Arnold Brett and Lisa Ashburn Kenny and Michelle Ball Robert and Nicole Beaman Mark and Krista Beck Ryan and Tammy Bickel Connie Boesen Andrew Bouska and Emily Williams-Bouska Honorable and Mrs. Terry Branstad Katie Broughton Molly Catron Zach and Azure Christensen Carl and Nancy Coates Chris and Marcie Coleman Kirk and Dina Embree Daniela Graham Krause Gentle Foundation Kylie and Kaleb Glover Dr. John and Tina Hade Russell J. Hansen Anna C. Hudson Dick and Connie Isaacson John and Sally Irving

Stephanie Jacobs Bill and Twyla Johnson Dr. Alan and Margie Koslow John and Kathy Krogmeier Tracy Levine John Joseph Myers Revocable Trust Raymond and Shirley Michel Mary Jean Paschen John Peterson Regions Bank Brian and Wendy Rickert Randy and Linda Rogers Keiko Sampson Fred and Nancy Scott Brian Seaman and Angie Ball Chris Shay Shimerdla Family Michaela Smith South Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Van Meter Industrial Fund Jolene and Brian Veach Honorable and Mrs. Thomas Vilsack Lisa Williams Stephanie Windsor Megan Wright

Scott Ivers

Annual Fund Gifts

The Blank Park Zoo thanks the following donors for their contributions to the Zoo's Annual Fund made between November 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009. These gifts provide vital funding for the programs and activities of the Zoo.

\$50,000 and Above

BRAVO Greater Des Moines

Principal Financial Group

\$20,000 - \$49,999
Atlantic Coca-Cola Bottling Company
City of Altoona
City of Ankeny
City of Clive
City of Johnston
City of Urbandale
City of West Des Moines
City of Windsor Heights
State of Iowa Department of Cultural
Affairs - Cultural Enrichment Program

Wells Fargo Windsor Charitable Foundation

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Bankers Trust
Burnett Family Foundation
Iowa Department of
Economic Development
Meredith Corporation Foundation

The Vredenburg Foundation

Prairie Meadows

\$5,000 - \$9,999

AVIVA Charitable Foundation
Bank of America
EMC Insurance Companies
Sara Ghrist
HI Foundation, Inc.
John Deere Des Moines Operations

William C. Knapp Charitable Foundation Samuel O'Brien and Carolyn Brenton-O'Brien

Stan and Dotty Thurston Variety-The Children's Charity of Iowa Whirlpool Foundation

\$2,500-\$4,999

A.E.Easter Family Fund
Blank Children's Hospital
Caseys General Stores, Inc.
City of Des Moines Employees
Community Foundation of
Greater Des Moines

Greater Des Moines Jim and Patty Cownie Paul and Sandy Easter

Jo Ghrist

Jim and Sheila Hourigan

Michael C. and Deborah S. Hubbell

Iowa Department of

Administrative Services

Merit Resources Mrs. Clark's Foods

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

Roger and Shirley Stetson

Charitable Trust Townsend Vision Inc.

University of Iowa Children's

Hospital Safety Store

Urban Charitable Foundation III Mark and Charlene Vukovich

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Advanced Analytical Technologies, Inc. Affinity Credit Union

Ahlers and Cooney, PC Allegra Print and Imaging

American Enterprise Group

American Equity Investment Life Ins. Co.

Austin Blank

Don and Margo Blumenthal

Harry Bookey and Pamela Bass-Bookey

Brenton Foundation

Broadlawns Medical Center

Penny Burnett CDS Global, Inc.

Charles Gabus Dealerships

Kaye C. Condon

Des Moines Cold Storage Des Moines University -

Osteopathic Medical Center

Joel and Lori Doyle Ernst and Young LLP

Bob Fleming and Ann Fleming Holmes and Marjorie Foster

Matt and Bridget Fryar

Michael and Barbara Gartner

Anne Ghrist

John and Ann Ghrist

Richard and Jane Hein

Henry G. and Norma A. Peterson

Charitable Trust

Pat Henson

Fred and Charlotte Hubbell

Helen Hubbell

Iowa Realty

James and Helen Hubbell Jr. Foundation Jim and Patty Cownie Charitable Fund

Alissa Jourdan Karsh and Hagan Kemin Industries Kenton Klein Sr

Krause Gentle Foundation

Lisa Kruidenier

Steve and Cathy Lacy

Nixon and Nancy Lauridsen

Katie Meredith

Meredith Corporation

Dr. Richard and Polly Moore

Art Wittmack and Susan Eaton

Dale and Mary Parker

Honorable and Mrs. Robert D. Ray

CHANGING HOW PEOPLE Give to the World

Reynolds and Reynolds, Inc. Norm and Cindy Griese John and Randi Stern Taco Johns John and Teresa Trible Violet G. Young Charitable Trust Tom Stanberry and Jill Thompson-Hansen WildRose Entertainment Jonathan Wilson Sumner and Karen Worth

\$500 - \$999 L.J. Thomas and Charlene Ahlers Haley Anderson Brad and Sally Austin Mark and Krista Beck Clark and Christine Bening Best Western Des Moines Big Barn Harley-Davidson Gregory Burt and Suzie Glazer-Burt Zach and Azure Christensen Clix Portrait Studios Consumer Credit of Des Moines Robert and Sharon Dee Kevin Drees and Tracey Dolphin-Drees Essex Meadows, Inc.

Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Mary Ghrist James

John and Louise Grzybowski James and Pam Hagenbucher

ING Foundation Iowa Events Center Doug and Sheryl Ireland ITA Group Foundation Steven Jayne and Karen Shaff John Stoddard Estate Charles and Jaina Johnson

Josephs Jewelers KDSM Fox 17

John and Mary Keck

Matt McCoy

William and Dorothy McGinnis Foundation

Deborah Miller

Charles and Suzy Muelhaupt

Brian and Lisa Pins

Judy Porter

Principal Life Insurance Company Dr Brian Randall and Dr Mary Kemen Fred and Nancy Scott Gordon and Karen Smith Smith Barney Inc South Suburban YMCA David and Rebecca Stark Ted Stephens Stew Hansen's Dodge City Chrysler Jeep George and Joan Sullivan Toyota/Scion of Des Moines The Vernon Company David and Dolores Wallace Dean and Lisa Whitaker

Tim and Connie Rock

\$250-\$499

Jim and Rosie Aipperspach Anonymous Mary K Baker Anita Bennett Neil and Angie Berns Matt and Ellie Bishop John and Holly Bonanno Andrew Bouska and Emily Williams-Bouska Brown Winick Attorney at Law

John and Kathy Williams

Molly Catron

Connie Comfort Community State Bank

Marshall and Stephanie Critchfield

Wells and Sharon Dickson Jeff Dier and Jean Osgood **DMACC**

Denise Donald Drake University

Financial Plus Credit Union Donald and Marian Easter Karen and Steven Eddy Gannett Foundation

Girl Scouts EIWI Troop #9070 Paul and Marlene Glahn Dr Herman and Sara Graefe Carl and Marcene Grant Ted E. and Corinne Hanke Mark and Ginny Haviland Boy Scouts of America Iowa Beverage Systems Dick and Connie Isaacson Libby and Steve Jacobs Keith and Diane Krell

John and Kathy Krogmeier Elizabeth Kruidenier Rod Kruse and Jan Berg-Kruse Alfred Leiserowitz Tracy Levine Bill and Kathy Lillis Pat Melkus Merchants Bonding

Company Foundation Andrew and Barbara Nish

Cathy O'Brien

Jim and Jeanne O'Halloran Mark and Jill Oman

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

Harry Perkins III and Nancy Perkins Premier Credit Union

Joe and Diane Proctor Quality Rating System RDG Planning and Design Terry and Kim Rich

Steven Rowe and Mary Louise Hlavin John Ruan IV and Alison Ruan

Charlie Schafer

Tim and Anne Shimerdla Significance Foundation Ashley and Laurie Sloterdyk Heather D. Spurlin

Martha Tinker

William and Wicker Van Orsdel

Brian and Jolene Veach Collin and Julie Venenga Weitz Corporation Stephanie Windsor Wolfe Eye Clinic Workspace Inc

Krenio P. and David G. Wright David Yepsen and Mary Stuart Alan and Janice Zuckert

\$100 - \$249

AIB College of Business Kevin Alewine Mary Allen Cindy Walker Larry Crane and Grace Ambrose Kelly Anderson Matthew Anderson

John and Cynthia Andrews James and Carol Austin

Daniel Bartlett

Gary and Pamela Bauer Bruce Baumgarn

Robert and Nicole Beaman

Al Beaty

Adam and Annemarie Beveridge

Ryan and Tammy Bickel

Judy Blank

Jason and Dawn Boucher Kenneth A. and Cynthia L. Bray

Margaret Brennan J.C. and Sue Brenton

Jacqueline and Arthur Ely Brewer Jr.

Trisha Brock Penny Brockelsby

Michael and Lindsay Brown Tim and Deb Burnett

Frank and Janet Burton

Jan Campbell and Diane Finley Lee Carlson and Linda Young Jim and Teresa Carmichael George and Kathlyn Carpenter

Ted and Rebecca Cates Central Campus Joe and Paula Cerne Andy and Kelly Chalupa Lynne Champion

Hal and Avril Chase

Rick Clark

David and Deborah Coldwell

Diane Collett

Community Choice Credit Union

Conference of State Bank Supervisors, Inc.

Continental Western Group LLC

Mary L. Cooper Kathy Cross

David and Myrlene Darnell

Ann Davenport
Davis Brown Law Firm
Dale and Nancy Denton
Des Moines Register
Mark and Chris Dickerson

Tom Dobbin M Burton Drexler

Randy Duncan Jr and Paula Duncan

Bill Dryer Doris Eby Evelyn Eckles Bob and Jane Elgin Karen and Arnold Engman Faegre and Benson

John and Suzanne Farrington

Mary A Felts

Josh and Samantha Fett Steven and Susan Flack James and Allison Fleming Jonathan and Amanda Fletcher

Lou and Pam Flori

Freightliner of Des Moines Brent and Colette Friest Dan Garrett and Kristi Eckard

Justin Gartin

Toby and Heather Geiger Julia B. Gentleman Trust Michael and Ann Gersie

Git-N-Go Convenience Stores, Inc.

Mike and Cheryl Giudicessi

Daniel Greenland and Danielle Brookes

Dr. Jon and Tina Hade Denise Harlan Carl and Sally Harris Nanette Heginger

Robert G and Karen L Henderson

Ruth Henson

Allen and Sara Hentscher

Robert Hoehle

Steve and Judy Houg David and Barb Hurd Raleigh and Cindy Hutt Larry and Karen Hutzell

Iowa State Bank Stephanie Jacobs Albert and Juliane Janek Bruce and Diane Janvrin Scott and Nikki Johnson Russ and Lucile Johnson Nancy and Jayme Johnson

Robert Josten Angie Kaiser

Kaldenberg's PBS Landscaping

Selma Kastle

Jimmy Keenan and Keri Bolles

Hok Kim

Robert and Loral Kirke Mark and Michelle Kirkland

Walter Kretzmann and Pat Kenneley

Jonah Kruse Daniel Kucera

Kris and Roxanne Kucharski Michael and Pamela Kulik Mike and Jane LeMair Mark and Kathy Larson John and Prudence Leachman

Eric and Holly Lewis Victoria Lewis Michelle Lickteig Jim and Pat Luhrs Barry and Dawn Lull

Dean, Stephanie and Carter Luttrell

Mark and Jeanne Lyle Harriet S. Macomber Mail Services, LLC

Robert and Jacqueline Major Darrell and Jane McAllister William and Gail McCabe

Joann McCracken and Cynthia Young

Ben and Susie McCullough Brian and Janice McGarvey Daniel and Andrea McGuire Dan and Joanne McPhail Donald and Janet Metcalf

Julie Middleswart Shandy Mikkelsen Paul and Gloria Morris Kelly R Morris

Jason and Jennifer Mortimer Roscoe and Cheryl Morton Derek and Heidi Nestor

Kristine Niedert

Vaughn M and Rowena G Noring

David Norris

Richard and Patricia Noyce Eric and Holly Olson Timothy and Kelli Oswald

Tamas Otrok

Melvin and Tammy Paetz

Becky Parrish and Jeffrey Obrecht

Mary Jean Paschen Rick and Jackie Patton

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. James Piros and Ruth Wright-Piros

Playground for Kids Erik and Laurine Raker Michael Raker

Edwin and Beverly Richardson Brian and Wendy Rickert Paul and Judith Romans

Joseph Romeo

Dr. Gary R and Barbara Rosberg

Randy and Nancy Ross

CHANGING HOW PEOPLE Give to the World

Jeff and Michelle Rossate

Lois Rowe

Ron and Clarice Rubek and Ashlyn Meyer

Donald C and Mary Ryckman

Chuck and Kathy Safris

Elaine Salmon

Charitie Schaer

Carl and Margaret Schwab

Richard and Cynthia Settle

Rachael Shields

Shive-Hattery, Inc.

Valerie Siddell

Robert and Loretta Sieman

Anne Slatterly

Nathan and Amy Smith

Jeff and Trish Southard

Gene and Andrea Spalding

Tony and Gretchen Spiker

Jeffrey and Kathleen Stahl

Michael and Simma Stein

Kevin and Jennifer Stetson

William S. and Beth Stokes

Aaron and Stacie Stone

Carol Stone

Donny and Susan Suh

Mike Taylor

Pamela Thompson

Tim and Kathy Titus

Mike and Ann Touney

Thomas Tuttle and Becky Tuttle

Ieff and Brenda Vasichek

William F. Vernon Jr

Mike and Diane Versackas

Jack G. and Ann Wahlig

Waterfront Seafood Market, Inc.

Roger and Harriett Waugh

Steve and Patricia Weeks

George Welch

Sheila White

James and Sandra Windsor

B. Rowe and Susan Winecoff

\$100 and Below

Timothy Aaberg

Anonymous Donor

Kelly and Sherri Aschan

John and Sue Auer

Jeff and Michelle Baedke

Iames H. Baker

Scott and Laura Bandstra

Daniel and Jennifer Beck

Ron and Carlita Beltz

Ioshua Bertocki

Todd and Joan Bindel

Sandra K. Blanchard

Bryan and Lori Boatwright

Susan Boe

Dan and Sarah Bonefas

Alan and Lynn Bowman

Kristen and Bradley Boyles

Honorable and Mrs. Terry Branstad

Rebecca Briggle

Katie Broughton

Doug and Martha Brown

Dani Shirley-Brown

Lacy Brunnette

Budget Blinds

Betty Buland

Keith and Barbara Bullock

Erica Burke and Matthew Bral

Patrick Callahan

Chuck and Sandy Callahan

Dave Caris and Hallie Stil-Caris

Chad and Amanda Carlson

Carney Appleby and Brewick, PLC

Robert and Linda Carpenter

Peter and Rebecca Cartwright

Dennis and Mary Lou Caskey

Laurie Casson

Michael J. and Doreen M. Caudle

Central States Theatre

Peggy Clark and Andrea Sutherland

Sandra Clarks

Adrien Clay

Andrew and Andrea Clemmensen

Carroll and Miriam Cline

Carrie Clogg and Jennie Nelson

Rich and Katy Cohan

Janet Cole and Melissa Kruse

I. Thomas and Terri L. Collins

Joseph and Margaret Ann Comito

Corey and Colleen Conrad

Steven and Gwenn Copple

Virgil R. and Betty Corbin

Ruth Core

Larry and Debby Corkrean

Holly and Rick Craiger

Stevin and Staci Dahl

A. Stoddard and Lucia Crane

Crose and Lemke Construction Inc

Ted and Ann Davidson

Donna F. Deatsch

Philip and Nora Doster

Jack Dougherty

Jennifer Draiss

Vernon Drees and Phyllis Drees

Ronnie Driskill

Scott Dunn

Joseph Eckhart

Roy and Averyle Ehrle

Deb Elliott and Jami Hepperle

Craig and Cindy Fausch

Kathleen Ferguson

Becky Flanagan

Catherine Fought

Robert and Sheri Fouraker

Dale and Esther Frank

Alyssa Frederick and Pat Fitzpatrick

Jeff Freude and Laurie Wolf

Shelia Aukes

John and Jane Gandy

Scott Gass and Elizabeth Vaughn

Rick and Alene Gates

John and Regina Gerdes

James and Kathy Graff

Great Ape Trust of Iowa

Jim Green and Keiko Sampson

Paul and Wen-Yu Vicky Haines

Florence Halbert

Tom and Gayle Hamilton

Charlie and Sigrid Harem Alan and Valene Hautekeete

James and Sarah Hayes

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Hertko

Cheryle Himes

John R. and Mary C. Himrod

Bob and Judy Hoffman

Ellen E. Holm

Anne E. Holmer

Karen and David Holmes

Mike and Jo Hoss

Andrew and Angie Hoyt

David and Linda Hueser

John and Ellen Hunter

Audrey Jacobson

Scott F. Jeffrey

Douglas Jensen

William and Twyla Johnson Allen E. and Shirley A. Kirk

Glenn and Lori Kistenmacher

James and Shelly Knutson

Guy Koenigsberger Kristie Koerner Amy Kopatich Andrea Kruse

Gerald and Dorothea Lalonde

Marjorie Lathrum and Bonnie L. Gordon

Terry and Kathleen Lebo George and Erin Lederhaas Linda and Lawrence Lehmer

David M. Leigh Rebecca Linhart Robert and LuAnn Link

Ted Little

Becky Lofstedt and Amanda Johnson

Michael and Clare Logsdon

Terri Long

Steve and Carol Looney David D. Lundahl and Jeri Richard Lundahl

Nancy Lunn Julie Lyford Debbie Lynch

Barry and Teri Mabon Morton and Monica Machir Charles and Barbara Markus

Kathy Martin

Jack Mathews and Judy Ackerman

James and Lynn McBrian Garrett and Tammi McClain

Marcia McFall

Pete and Eleanor J. McGaffin Arthur and Joann McLendon

Marilyn J. McNamara

Val Melkus

John and Eileen Mercuris Lawrence A. and Becki Messer

Mary Messersmith Garyl and Cathy Miller Floydine and Bert Millis Kathy and Tiffany Mitchell

Rebekah Mitchell

Kerri Moegenburg and Jenny Thorn

Lynn Montgomery

Robert Moran and Jennifer Moran

Paul and Karen Pearston

Pamela Nagel

Sandhya and Amar Nath James R. and Patricia K. Nelson Max E. and Ann Lucile Newbury Dana L Nichols

Ben and Jean Norman Norwalk Veterinary Clinic

Jeff and June Olds Joanne Olhausen

Gail Olson

John and Cara O'Neill

John T Orr II Shannon Osterholm

Ronald K. and Donna M. Owen

Deborah Palmer

Sandy and Ray Parker, Jr.

Jeffrey Parmelee

Heidi L. Patterson-Runyan William and Sally Patton

Don Pease Thomas Perry Jr. Carl and Renae Peters

Lori Pfeiffer

Nancy Prazak and Deb Emery Principal Charity Classic

Brian and Margret Quetsch-Bales

Jon and Sherry Raleigh Alexandra Ramer Lenny and John Ramsey

Steven B. and Kathleen J. Raymond

Lois Reichert

Reynolds General Construction Don Reynolds and Amy Reynolds

Connie L. Rhine

Sara and Laurence Rivas

David Robinson Bonita Rogers Lorinda Roth Besty Salmon

Kevin and Michelle Sanders

Karen Sanders-Kelly

James and Martha Sanderson

Kim Scarsi

Cory and Jessica Schmidt

Eugene J. Schmitt

Art and Stephanie Schramm

Diane Schroeder Lois H. Schropp

Brian Seaman and Angel Ball

Angie Sevenbergen

Chris Shay

Larry L. and Judith Sheldon

Paige Shelton Miranda Shields Taylor Shire

Robert G. and Peggy J. Short Randall and Cathy Simon

Cassie Sluke

Joan Smith-Legg and David Smith

Jill Soenen

David and Rochelle Sowers Ron and Arlys Spurlin Richard Stachon

Scott and Heather Staebell

Brittany Stine Gary and Judy Svec Jerry and Claudia Tank

Stephen and Christina Thompson

Rick and Tina Thompson Harold and Janice Thompson

Carla D. Tibboel

Todd and Stephanie Tielbur Jason and Haley Topp

Toni G. Tran Holly Trice

Larry and Michelle Utsler Eric and Bonnie Van Ellen Craig and Rene Van Gundy Russell Ver Ploeg and

Patricia Vargas-Ver Ploeg Lambertus and Henrica Verhey

John and Frances Victor Mrs. R.W. Vorrath

Steve Walker and Megan Wright

Jean L. Walker Kristina Walkup

W.L. (Bill) and Eva May Wallace

Phillip Walsh Lora Ward

Joe and Rhonda Watton

Vikki Weeks

Jerry and Margaret Weiner

Tamara Weinstein Paul D. and Joan Welch Larry and Willa Wenzl

Erin Wessling

Don and Anita Westerhaus Christy and Ronald Wetrich Jon and Theresa Whitmer

Thomas Whitson Karen Williams Lisa Williams

George and Genie Wilson Scott and Christine Wirth

CHANGING HOW PEOPLE Give to the World

Jerome and Donnie Wolf Ginny Wooldridge John and Jennifer Worley Kate Worster David Wright and Kathi Sircy Brent and Margaret Wynja Carolyn Yorgensen Isaac and Martha Young

In - Kind Gifts

Karen Aljets

Allegra Print & Imaging

Animal Rescue League of Iowa, Inc.

Applishus

Thomas Armstrong

Atlantic Coca-Cola Bottling Company

Blue Bunny

Chocolaterie Stam

Dahl's Food Stores

De John Greenhouses

Des Moines Cold Storage

Des Moines Marriott Downtown

Des Moines Radio Group

Des Moines Register

DEX

Bob and Jane Elgin

Nancy and Dennis Engle

Flarahs

Io Ghrist

Glass Magic

Great Ape Trust of Iowa

Amy Green

Harley Owners Group

Hawkeye Tack and Western Wear

Kelly Hintzen

Hy Vee Food Store

Innova Ideas & Services, A Sigler Company

Iowa Department of Human Services

Isabel Bloom

Johnny's Italian Steakhouse

Gary and Kari Johnson

Lana Jones-Gould

Jen Jorgensen

KCCI-TV

KDSM Fox 17

Tim and Becky Kinman

William and Nancy Krause

John and Kathy Krogmeier

Darel Kuhlmann

Craig Long

LovingRest Pet Funeral Home

Mark and Tricia McKinney

Marilyn McKinney

Jennie McKinney

Lisa Miller

Kristine Neipert

Nutramax Laboratories, Inc.

Oakwood United Methodist Church

Olde Main Brewing Co.

Vicki Oslund

Radical Cycle

Radisson Hotel

Rainbow Play Systems

Pam Reel

Revolution Cycle

Shear Madness

Shear Pawfection

Sherwin Williams

Heather Simons

Stage West Theater Company

Larry and Nancy Stanbrough

Roxanne Taiber

Wal-Mart

Cheryl Winkelmann

Yellow Book USA

ZANDA Design

Gifts in Honor and Memory

Gift in Honor of Diane Brown's Birthday

Larry and Willa Wenzl

Gifts in Memory of Corinne Hubbell

Dennis and Mary Lou Caskey

A. Stoddard and Lucia Crane

In Ghrist

James and Helen Hubbell Jr Foundation

Kenton Klein Sr

James and Lynn McBrian

Dr. Richard and Polly Moore

Samuel O'Brien and Carolyn

Brenton-O'Brien

Honorable and Mrs. Robert D. Ray

Lois H. Schropp

William F. Vernon Jr.

George and Genie Wilson

Jerome and Donnie Wolf

Gifts in Memory of Evelyn Eckles

Todd and Joan Bindel

Laurie Casson

Michael and Doreen Caudle

J. Thomas and Terry L. Collins

Virgil and Betty Corbin

Larry and Debby Corkrean

Donna Deatsch

Dale and Esther Frank

Marjorie Lathrum and Bonnie Gordon

John and Mary Himrod

Allen and Shirley Kirk

Monica and Mort Machir

Pete and Eleanor McGaffin

Marilyn McNamara

Lawrence and Becki Messer

Rebekah Mitchell

James and Patricia Nelson

Max and Ann Lucile Newbury

Ronald and Donna Owen

Sandy and Ray Parker, Jr.

Steven and Kathleen Raymond

Connie Rhine

Randall and Cathy Simon

Larry and Michelle Utsler

Mrs. R.W. Vorrath

Jean Walker

Vicki Weeks

Paul and Joan Welch

Gifts in Memory of Holmes Foster

Bruce Baumgarn

Susan Boe

Carney Appleby and Brewick, PLC

Conference of State Bank Supervisors

Crose and Lemke Construction Inc

J. Michael Earley

Faegre and Benson

Michael and Barbara Gartner

Mike and Cheryl Giudicessi

Tom and Gayle Hamilton

David M. Leigh

David D. Lundahl and

Ieri Richard Lundahl

Mail Services, LLC

Floydine and Bert Millis

Kelly R. Morris

Dana L. Nichols

Vaughn M. and Rowena G. Noring

Samuel O'Brien and Carolyn

Brenton-O'Brien

Heidi L. Patterson-Runyan

Larry L. and Judith Sheldon

Jack G. and Ann Wahlig

Waterfront Seafood Market, Inc.

Thomas Whitson

Alan and Janice Zuckert

Gifts in Memory of Jim Hubbell

Holly and Rick Craiger

Honorable and Mrs. Robert D. Ray

Gift in Memory of Prudence Leachman
John Leachman
Gifts in Memory of Selma Kastle
Kevin Drees and Tracey Dolphin-Drees

Gift in Memory of Wayne McCracken Isaac and Martha Young

Blank Park Zoo Foundation Board of Directors

Dean Whitaker, Chairman
Matt Fryar, First Vice-Chairman
Jonathan Wilson, Second Vice-Chairman
Jolene Veach, Secretary / Treasurer
Michael Hubbell, Immediate Past Chair
Judy Blank
Molly Catron
Rick Clark
Chris Coleman

Sara Ghrist
James Hagenbucher
Russell Hansen
Pat Henson
James Hourigan
Scott Ivers
Lisa Kruidenier
Cathy Lacy
Tracy Levine
Daniel McCabe
Mary Jean Paschen

Billie Ray Brian Rickert Chris Shay Loretta Sieman Kathleen Stahl Julie Stewart Collin Venenga Stephanie Windsor Teri Wood TeBockhorst

Blank Park Zoo Foundation Directors Emeritus

Bob Burnett Gloria Burnett Jo Ghrist

Kaye Condon

Paul Easter

Elizabeth Kruidenier John Peterson Tim Urban David Wallace

Blank Park Zoo Foundation Staff

Ryan Bickel Matthew Forland Gwen Parks Miranda Shields Michaela Smith

Administration

Michaela Smith Mark Vukovich

Development

Azure Christensen Stephanie Jacobs Rachael Shields Lisa Williams Emily Williams-Bouska

Operations & Guest Services

Penny Brockelsby Katie Broughton Laura Holtman John Huss Cindy Hutt Betsy Salmon Brian Seaman Anne Shimerdla

Education

Lori Boatwright Kira Bowles Daniela Graham Kathy McKee Katie Petty Audrey Pohlmann

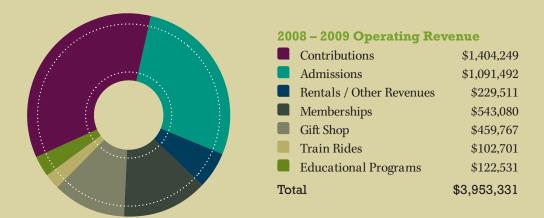
Horticulture, Grounds, Maintenance

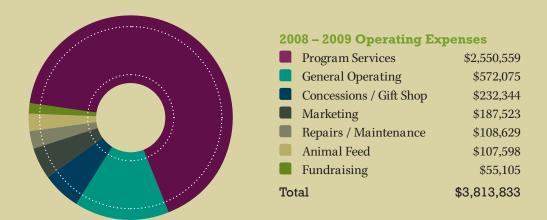
Patrick Callahan Ken Ball Cindy Fausch Dan Greenland

Animal Care Brett Ashburn Lisa Ashburn

Dan Bieltz Myrna Booth Rachael Cohen **Chad Comer Kathy Cross** Jeff Dier **Kevin Drees** Tara Engel Nicole Garvey Valene Hautekeete William Johnson Amy Kopatich John Krogmeier Shannon Osterholm Keiko Sampson Aaron Stone Bonnie Van Ellen Jessica Weeks Megan Wright

Financials





Financials based on Blank Park Zoo fiscal year end operating statements November 1, 2008 – October 31, 2009. For the latest financial statement, including restricted endowment and restricted accounts, visit blankparkzoo.com.

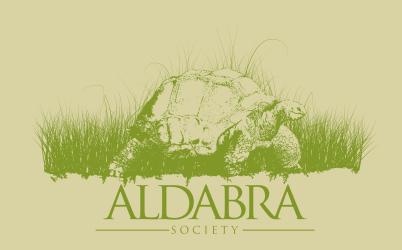
66 Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago. 9 9 Warren Buffett

Leave a Legacy

While being one of the longest-lived animals on the planet, the Aldabra Tortoise was once figured as a prestigious gift because of their size and longevity. Characteristically slow and cautious, these incredible creatures are capable of reaching appreciable speeds, tend to outlive their human observers, and are known to leave a lasting impression.

The Blank Park Zoo Foundation's Aldabra Society is a group of visionary, forward-thinking supporters who have made estate-plan provisions to give a lasting gift to the Blank Park Zoo Foundation.

As a member of the Aldabra Society, you too, can leave a lasting impression that will outlive generations to come.



Make the Change

Blank Park Zoo is designed to enhance the quality of life in Iowa as an affordable destination, and as a center for education and endangered species conservation. We hope this annual report offers a snapshot of the many things taking place at our Zoo, and hope you have been inspired to support the work of the Zoo.

Purchase a Zoo Membership

Our annual zoo pass allows members to come and go as often as they like, plus receive a number of other added benefits.

Adopt an Animal

This is fun and unique way to support the Zoo's animals and create a special bond with one of your favorite zoo animals.

Host an Event

The Zoo offers a natural serene escape for special gatherings, and is a great place for private and corporate outings. Our staff will assist you in making your day, dinner, meeting or outing spectacular and memorable.

Volunteer

Your time and talents are valuable! Volunteers are essential to the operation of the Blank Park Zoo.

Attend a Fundraiser

Proceeds from zoo events support animal care and education programs. From Zoo Brew's to the Uptown Hoedown to Night Eyes, we are certain to have an event you will love!

Support the Zoo today by participating as a corporate sponsor, including the Blank Park Zoo in your estate plans, or making an immediate impact on animal care, education and conservation through a gift to the annual fund! Your charitable gift helps the Blank Park Zoo care for more than 2,800 animals, offer education programs to over 120,000 people, and take part in conservation efforts worldwide.



A New Destination for Iowa's Wildest Adventure

The mission of the Blank Park Zoo is to inspire an appreciation of the natural world through conservation, education and recreation.

For over 40 years, as Iowa's only accredited Zoological Park, Blank Park Zoo has beckoned people face to face with Earth's wild creatures. It's an encounter animals and their survival.

No other cultural attraction in the state touches more experience. Having a truly great zoo in our midst is a direct reflection of the Zoo's commitment to building a and Iowa's commitment to create a truly great state in

In 2009, more than 400,000 people visited the Blank Park Zoo. In fact, more guests visit here than any other cultural attraction that tracks attendance in Iowa Each individual that enters our gates represents an opportunity; a chance to introduce representatives

to affect positive change in the world. Each exhibit and

Today, Blank Park Zoo is poised to become an even stronger force for conservation and education by launching a long-term plan that includes new and responsibility to all of Iowa.

"Your vision will become clear when you look into your heart. Who looks outside dreams. Who looks inside, awakens."

> Carl Jung, Swiss Psychiatrist







Our Dream

To meet the challenges facing wildlife around the globe, we must create opportunities for people to connect to the natural world and to raise awareness about the importance of nature to people's lives. In our increasingly urban world, people are becoming disconnected from nature and many no longer view the natural world as relevant to their lives. By providing direct experiences with animals, Blank Park Zoo serves as a catalyst for re-acquainting and re-engaging our audiences – the state of Iowa and all our visitors – with wild animals and the wild places that sustain them.

By expanding Blank Park Zoo – building new exhibits, improving old ones, increasing our education reach and strengthening our conservation message – we are creating a unique and fun environment that improves our quality of life and are facilitating those necessary connections that will impact positive local and global change.

Conservation

When people are given the opportunity to connect with animals, they are far more likely to care about the conservation of wildlife and wild lands.

Each scientist, animal keeper, member, volunteer, donor, school child, educator, neighbor, and visitor is a potential conservation leader. As a species, we significantly impact our environment. Each choice we make helps or harms.

At Blank Park Zoo, we seek to make our impact a positive one and to show others how easy it is to do the same at home, at school, and in our everyday lives. Every Blank Park Zoo endeavor, from recycling programs to Species Survival Plans (SSP), from exhibits and outreach activities to curricula and conferences, is a means to inspire conservation leadership.

Blank Park Zoo is passionately working to promote a connection between visitors and the natural world, both locally and globally, and plans to actively increase its public education and outreach and active participation in conservation initiatives here in Iowa and around the world.

Education

As Iowa's only zoo, it is our responsibility to create a real connection between Iowa's children and environmental issues impacting their lives here and in the larger world. The world's wild animals and wild lands are in peril; Blank Park Zoo strives to continue being a local and global leader for cultural, environmental, animal and conservation education.

Blank Park Zoo is a valuable education resource for teachers and students, providing a wide range of programs that connect classrooms to the living world. The Zoo's education programs also engage audiences at the Zoo, online, and in schools, community centers and libraries throughout the state. From our Prekindergarten programs like Zoo Tots, to our Zoo schools and our outreach education programs to senior centers, the Zoo is working hard to become THE major resource for environmental learning for the State of Iowa.

staff to create more programs on-site, through outreach and online, reaching more audiences around the state, including at-risk and underserved children who may only have two outlets to learn about the larger world – their classrooms and Blank Park Zoo.

"The biggest misconception about our Zoo is all we do is recreation. We do so much more than that. We want to be a statewide resource for educating Iowa's children – to inform them about the environment, species survival and how it affects them and their lives going forward. We want to help increase our conservation

> efforts throughout the state and make the Zoo a cultural institution for the state of Iowa."

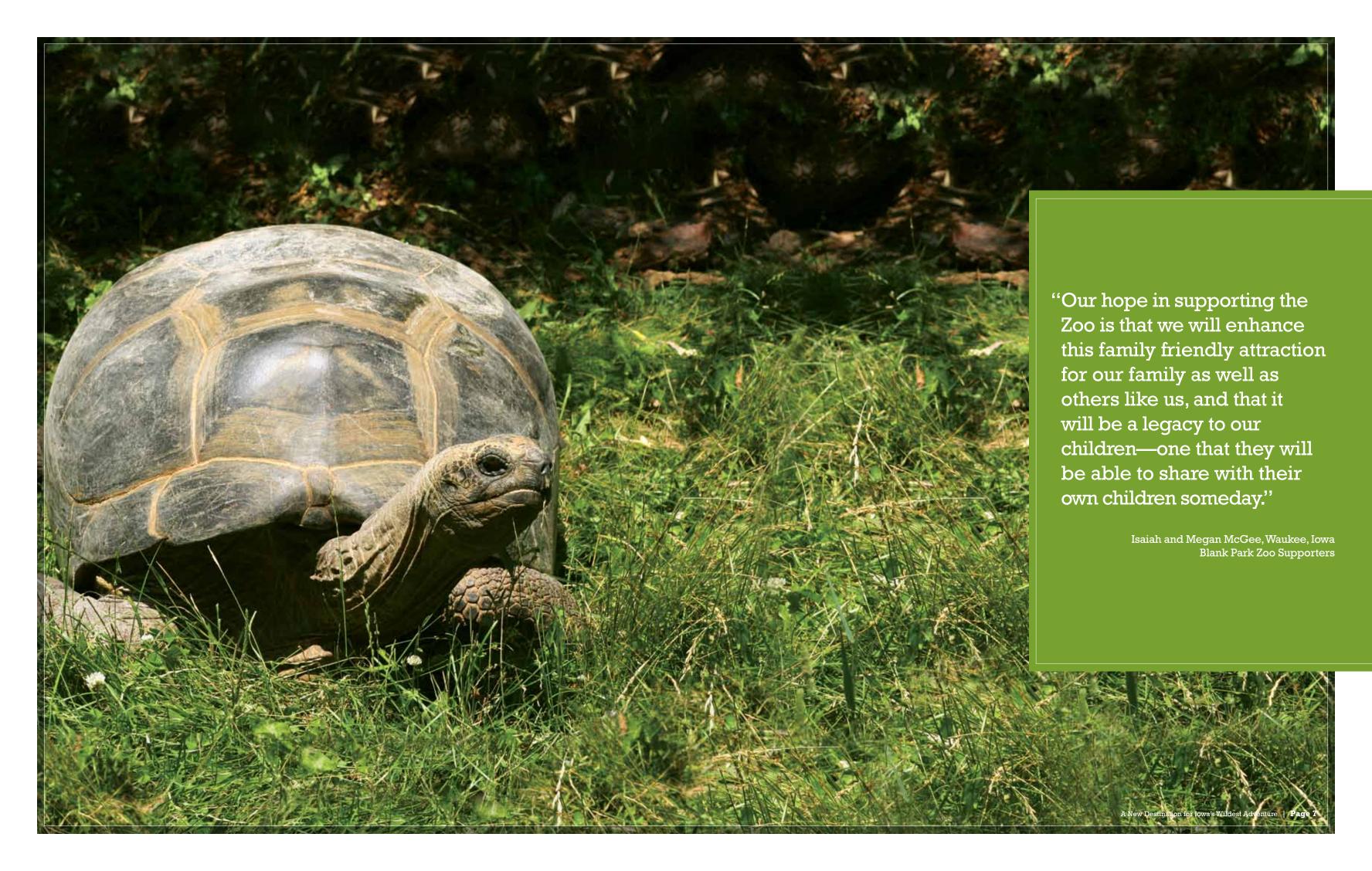
> > Mark Vukovich, CEO Blank Park Zoo

Recreation

Recent studies affirm that zoo visits impact human behavior. Interaction with live animals, many of which are threatened in the wild focuses visitor attention on their own role in solving environmental problems. The Building a new Education Center will allow our education key to protecting wildlife and nature is changing human behavior, and our programs and visitor experiences at Blank Park Zoo seek to transform curiosity about animals into compassionate action.

> Blank Park Zoo takes its responsibility and commitment to Iowa seriously and strives to provide an environment where visitors and communities from around Iowa feel welcome. Recognizing our communities have several needs going unmet, Blank Park Zoo strives to find creative avenues for partnerships that meet those community needs and understands the responsibility it has to serve a large variety of people through its projects and programs.

> As we celebrate over 40 years, we look forward to an exciting future and to transforming our Zoo into a world-class destination with new major exhibits and learning opportunities for all families and ages, opportunities to have a direct impact on conservation initiatives, and reaching out to our community to meet needs we may not even know are there.









Our Success

Blank Park Zoo strives to make a positive impact on the community

and create opportunities for people to connect with the natural world impart by providing a safe place for children and families to enjoy while learning about wild animals and the wild places in which they live. While serving more than 400,000 visitors each year from all 99 counties in Iowa and surrounding states, teaching 100,000 participants in our education programs, and feeding, watering and caring for 2,500 animals, the Zoo continues to remain an asset to the Des Moines community and a fun, happy place for the state of Iowa.

Education

Education based on discovery and joy instills passion for the natural world. Our programs for every generation rely on hands-on learning to foster a lifelong relationship with nature. It's important to expand our enrichment programs to children of all ages, parents and teachers across the state and to provide ample classroom accommodations and necessary materials needed to conduct our programs.

Highlights include

- Our Zoo Tots program continues its annual success, with more than 400 kids and parents filling every seat in the classes offered.
- The Education Department conducts more than 800 programs reaching over 115,000 people
- Nearly 500 children attend Summer Safari camp where campers enjoy hands-on activities, crafts,

- games, and live animals all relating to different cultures and environmental topics.
- The Education department continues to acquire several new insects and animals to utilize in programs on and offsite including: Malaysian walking sticks, Peruvian green and gold millipedes, ferrets, green tree frogs, hedgehogs, and many more.

Conservation

Now more than ever, conservation is vital for both animal and environmental survival. We hope our guests realize that many of the animals they encounter are ambassadors for their counterparts, whose future may well be in peril.

Interactive exhibits and active participation in the captive population management of endangered species support the Zoo's mission for conservation.

Blank Park Zoo is dedicated to making a positive impact on wildlife and environmental conservation through:

- Public Education
- Staff and visitor participation in conservation effort
- Participation in species recovery plans, population management plans and species survival plans
- Water lab project
- Public exhibit on the recycling process of red wriggler worms
- Learning Environmental Action Programs (LEAP)
- Seafood Watch Public Awareness programming
- · Zoo "TV" Conservation Spots
- Coins for conservation
- And many more

Additionally, for more than 10 years, Blank Park Zoo has been dedicated to providing financial support for local and international conservation programs and alliances. This year's projects include:

- Northern Crawfish Frog Research Project
- · Hornbill Research Foundation: Family Adoption Program
- Center for Ecological Survival
- · Snow Leopard Trust
- Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA)
- Warren County Osprey Reintroduction Project

Recreation

For more than 40 years, Blank Park Zoo has been a part of this community. Generations have come to commune with the natural world. We are here to make sure the experience is extraordinary. Throughout the year, Blank Park Zoo provides a variety of special events

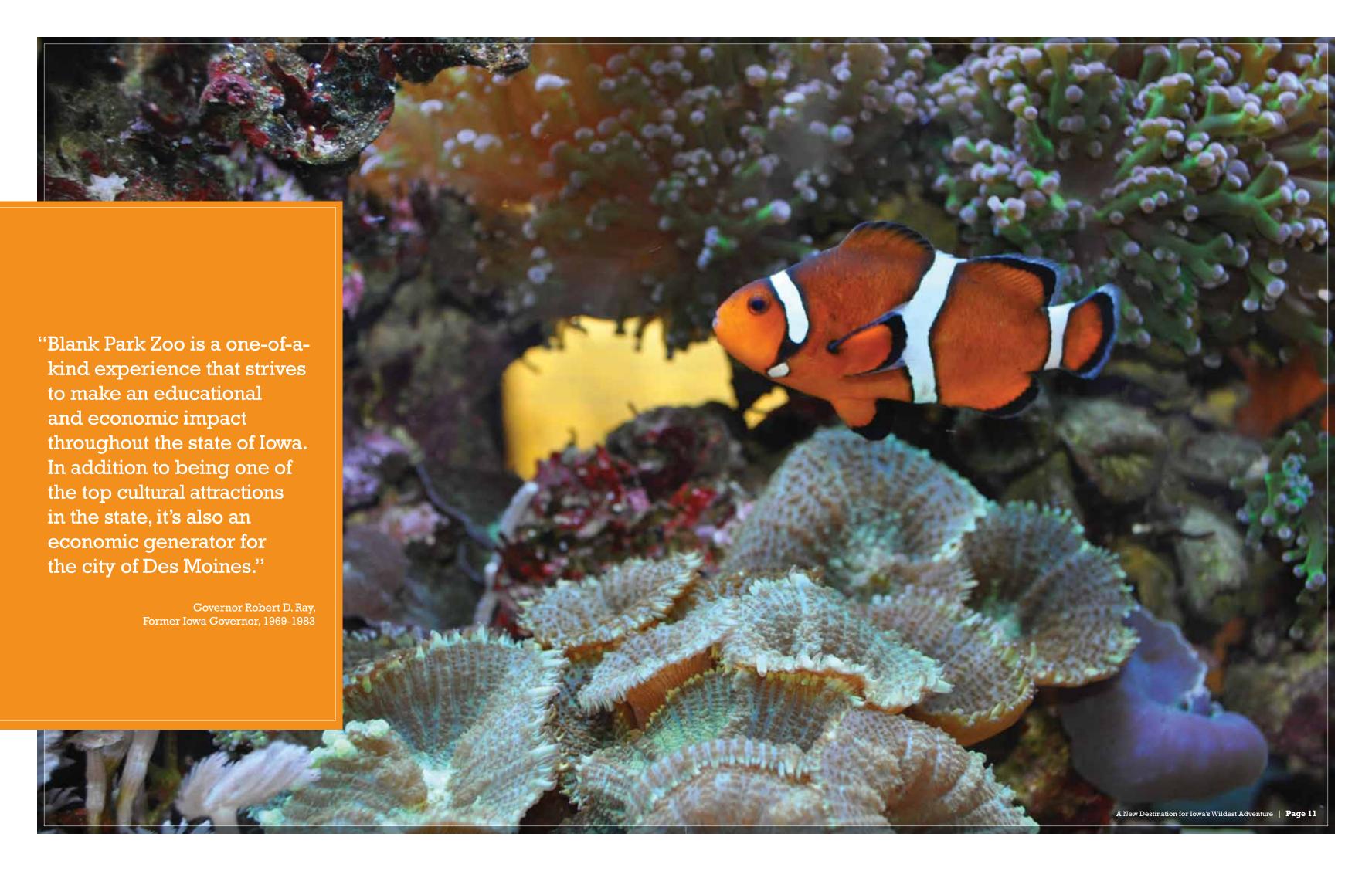
that benefit the community by providing entertainment for kids of all ages. More than 88,000 people attend these events, made possible through the generous support of community sponsors and devoted volunteers.

Blank Park Zoo is a place to learn, spend quality time, gain a better understanding of our intimate connection to nature, and just have a wild adventure!

"Gloria and I recognized sometime back that the Zoo incorporates into one package education, entertainment, conservation, and countless opportunities for quality family time. The Zoo is instrumental in providing Des Moines and Iowa premium status for family life. We're grateful to be supporters and are enthusiastic about future growth."

Bob and Gloria Burnett,
Zoo Supporters and Community Philanthropists











Our Commitment

Iowa is home to a remarkable number of topranked cultural, scientific and educational institutions supported by public and private dollars. A similar vision of excellence has been established for Blank Park Zoo. Blank Park Zoo has consistently played a vital role in the well-being of Iowans. Through economic development, tourism and quality of life, Blank Park Zoo strives to continue positively impacting our community.

Blank Park Zoo's growth will continue to have a positive impact on many aspects of Iowan's lives. It will:

Increase Economic Development for the state of Iowa

As a top cultural attraction for the state of Iowa, Blank Park Zoo is a vital economic resource. From expenses generated directly at the Zoo to other visitor spending such as dining, lodging and shopping, the financial impact of the Zoo greatly affects our state, stimulating our regional and state economies.

Increase Tourism in Central Iowa.
Each year, Iowans spend \$5.24 million at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. Creating a world-class attraction will bring more visitors to Central Iowa from around the state and the region.

"The Blank Park Zoo is one of those important city amenities that strengthens our community. When complete, the Zoo's expansion will enhance our ability to attract and retain a quality workforce as well as greatly impact the quality of life for Iowans and their families."

J. Barry Griswell President, Greater Des Moines Community Foundation; Former Chairman, Principal Financial Group

Enhance Quality of Life for Iowans
Young professionals and their families expect a top notch zoo in their community. Like art centers, civic centers and symphonies, zoos enhance the quality of life for everyone. A great zoo can be a point of pride, adding measurably to our state's cultural fabric.

Assist Corporations with work force development

Our corporate partners can attest, world-class amenities, including a world-class zoo helps companies to attract and retain a quality workforce.

Increase Commercial Development Opportunities Opportunities

The expansion is a key element of a "superblock" concept of green growth in an urban setting. Our plan will be a model of growth for cities throughout America looking to create unique opportunities for commercial growth in depressed market areas.

Provide opportunities for science and conservation education at an early age through our multi-faceted education programs

Zoos can inspire an interest in science and conservation for audiences increasingly removed from the natural world.

Provide opportunities for visitors to create a connection to a world larger than Iowa

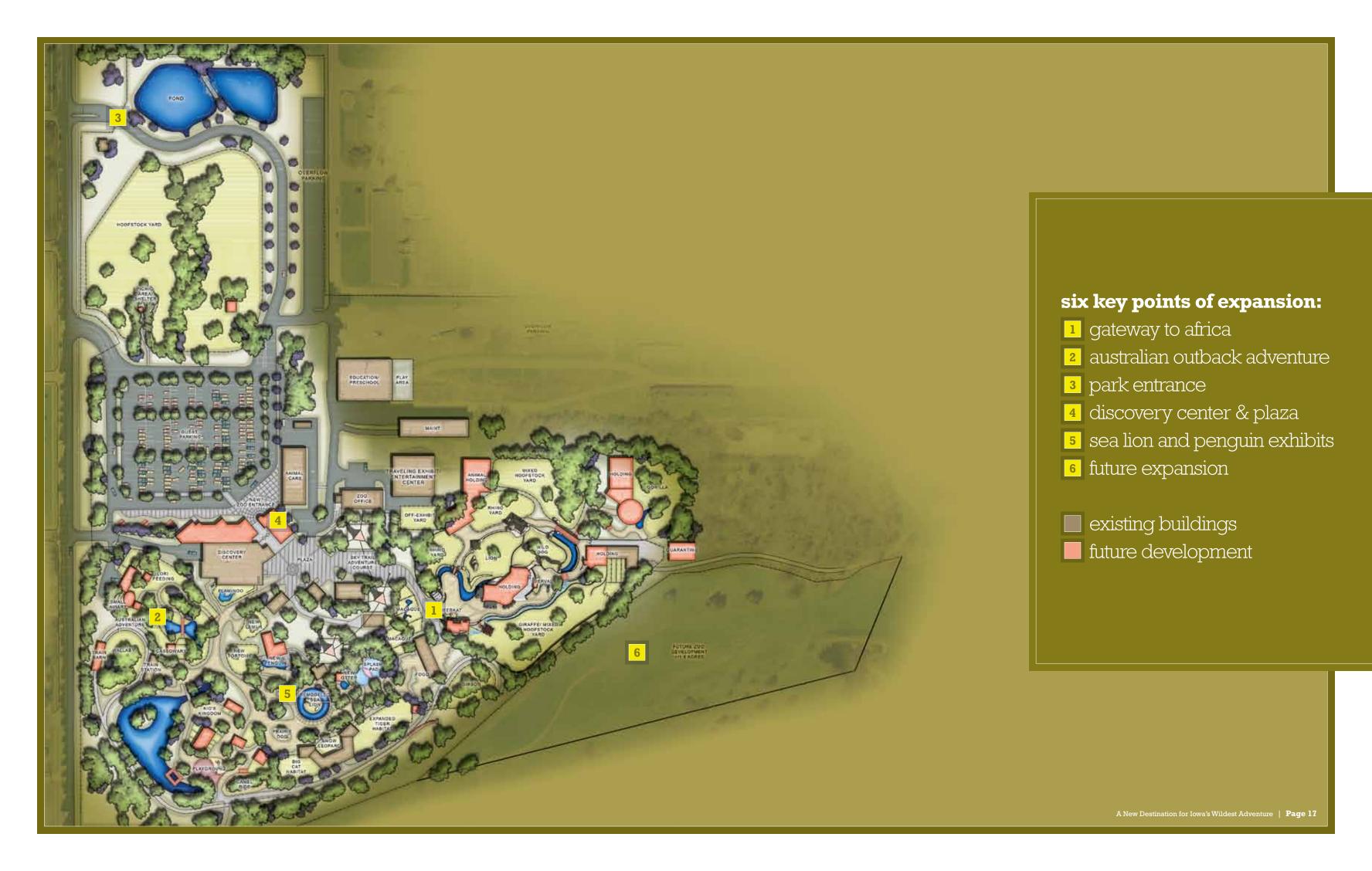
Many Iowans never get the opportunity to experience another country and its culture. Blank Park Zoo provides opportunities to understand what it is like to be a Masai warrior who lives with lions on a daily basis or an Australian farmer who has wallabies on his ranch.



"Did you know that giraffe have purple tongues?"
Megan asks Jonathan.
Megan loves to see, touch and learn about all the animals at the Blank Park
Zoo and she loves to share the experience with her baby brother. Jim and I think a day at the Zoo with the grandkids is a delight!"

Allison and Jim Fleming, Community Philanthropists











Your Gift

Your gift is needed to make the new Blank Park Zoo a reality!

There's an amazing world right here,

underneath our feet, filled with animals of every shape and size, plants of every form and color and natural spaces that can only be described as magical. Unfortunately, most of us spend our lives knowing only the tiniest part of this great world. Blank Park Zoo is committed to bringing conservation, education and recreation to the people of Iowa so we may better understand the amazing world around us.

We have begun an exciting new journey to expand the Zoo to a world-class facility with greater

capacity to serve our growing and diverse community. We invite you to join us in our endeavor. With your help, we can make our zoo bigger, better and continue to ensure its place as *Iowa's Wildest Adventure!*

The vision in creating a world-class zoo requires that we simultaneously raise funds to create new zoo experiences, develop new and strengthen existing partnerships and initiatives, sustain and provide existing programs and provide ongoing operational and financial stability.

"My decision to donate 18 acres of land to the Bank Park Zoo was an easy one. I can think of no better way to develop the land to benefit the community than with the Zoo."

> William C. Knapp Developer and Philanthropist

Widespread support is needed

The campaign has planned diversity of funding, which includes private philanthropic dollars from individuals, corporations and foundations as well as commitments from the City of Des Moines, Polk County, the state of Iowa and the federal government.

How to Give

- · By check or cash
- · With appreciated securities
- With a pledge (to be paid over 1-5 years)
- With a bequest in your will
- With a life income gift such as a charitable remainder trust or charitable gift annuity
- With tangible personal property

Gifts of all sizes are needed. The contributions of many will combine to form a solid foundation of support. Together, we can build a new world-class zoo. All gifts to the *Wild About Animals* campaign are deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The Blank Park Zoo Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

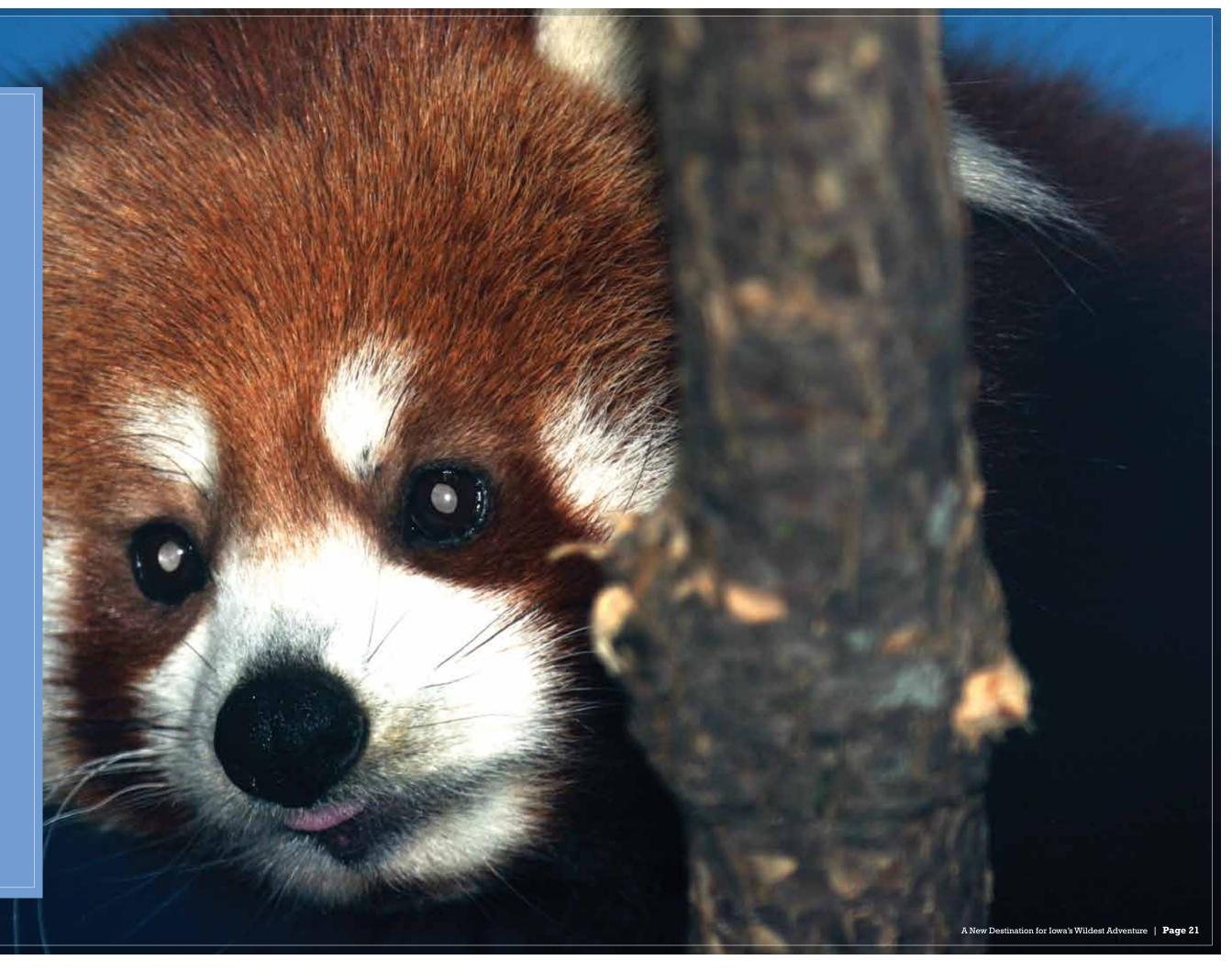
By helping to create and sustain the Zoo's legacy, it becomes your legacy.



You can help now by contributing online at www.blankparkzoo.com or by sending a gift to 7401 SW 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa, 50315. Many naming opportunities exist. For more information, please contact the Development Department at 515-974-2589 or development@blankparkzoo.org.

"This is your community, your state, your world to create - a world where you can enjoy yourself. The Zoo is a lifelong learning environment that really helps the fabric of Des Moines, the residential and business communities be a better place to live - but it's all about a team, all about making your state better - you can't grow without a team. Now is the time to join us and make an impact like no other organization can."

> Mike Hubbell and Loretta Sieman, Blank Park Zoo Capital Campaign Co-Chairs









We hope we have inspired you to become involved as a supporter of this exciting and immersive project.

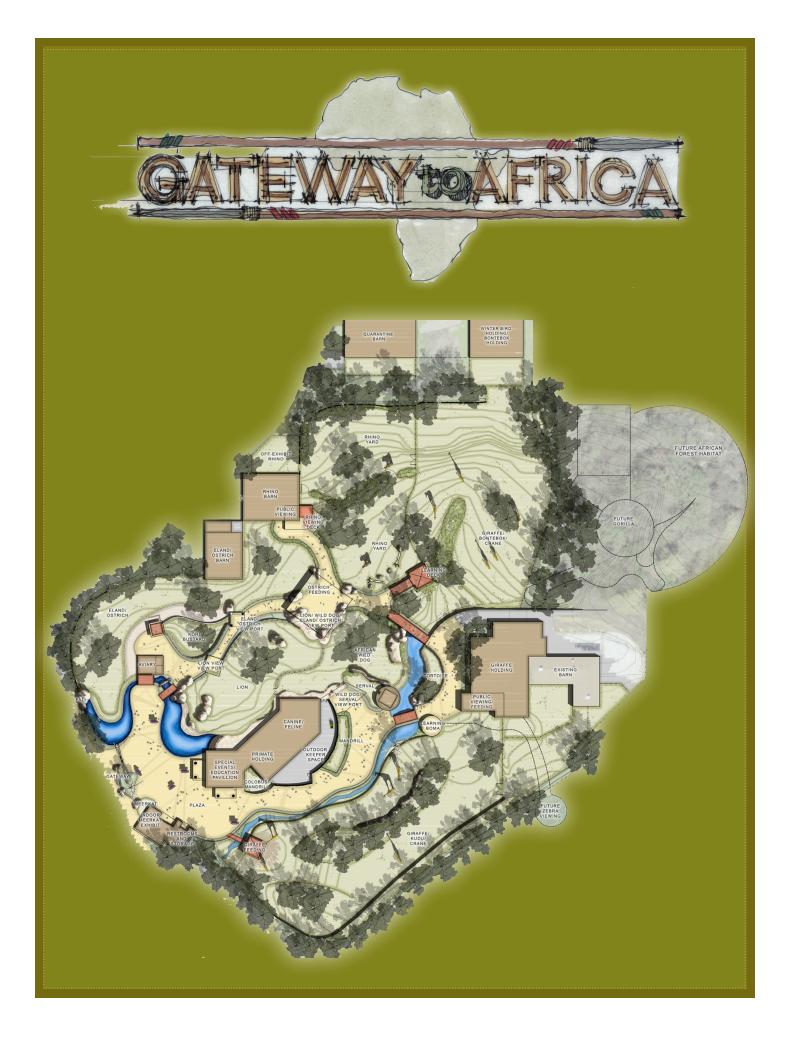
Be sure to read the enclosed supplemental materials to learn why your contribution to the *Wild About Animals* project is critical. Blank Park Zoo occupies a unique niche in the quality of life in Iowa. It is a living classroom for eager learners, an employer of passionate professionals, a catalyst of economic growth and a magnet for tourists. Blank Park Zoo has a "Wild" adventure for everyone!!!

"In the end, we conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

> Bada Dioum, Senegalese poet



IOWA'S WILDEST ADVENTURE



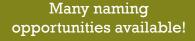
Across the Great Atlantic Ocean lies an oasis of wide horizons and topographic diversity, an endless stretch of golden sand dunes, surreal rock formations and lush, deciduous forests. The continent of Africa is home to the fastest and largest land animals in the world. Look up and see the Reticulated Giraffe or catch a glimpse of an African Lion! The African landscape can take you into the heart of a tropical rainforest or through an infinite stretch of arid desert. Now imagine you can experience Africa right here in Iowa.

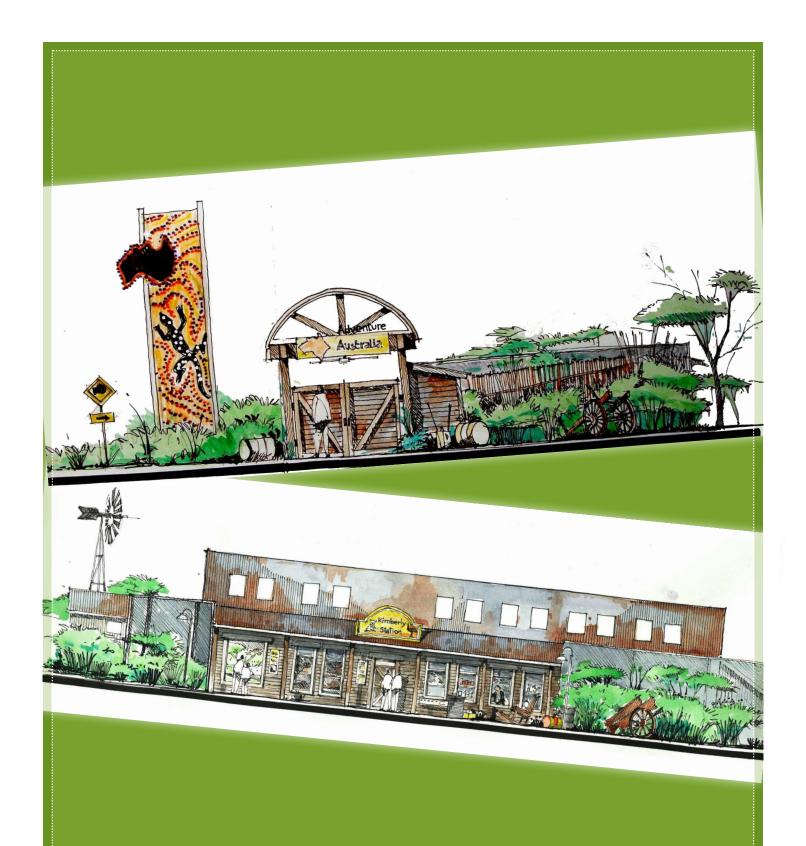
- Our new exhibit, "Gateway to Africa", will incorporate stateof-the-art giraffe, antelope, lion, primate, and rhino exhibits, aviaries, holding facilities and enrichment areas.
- New, large indoor viewing opportunities and special event space for our visitors to enjoy!
- Participate in discussions with animal keepers about conservation, feed the giraffe, watch the Mandrill and Colobus swing from tree to tree, and our lions sunning themselves on Pride Rock.
- Daily animal enrichment demonstrations will teach and delight guests of all ages

The Blank Park Zoo strives to inspire and educate its guests giving them a worldly experience without leaving Iowa!









Australian Outback

Experience Australia's spectacular beauty as you walk through the Zoo's "Outback Adventure". You'll discover strange creatures, colorful birds and vibrant fish. Watch as Giant Kingfishers, Rainbow Lorikeets and Chestnut Peafowl soar about your head. Careful where you walk, you're sharing the same pathway as our Bennett's Wallabies, Peacocks, Emus, and Egrets!

- Learn about the Australian rail system while you await your train ride at our new Train Station!
- Check out our newly built Australian Outback barn home to our wallaby mob, Kookaburras, and opportunities to learn about Australia's unique features.
- Several new bird species will be joining the aviary Eastern Rosellas, Eclectus and Kookaburra (the national bird of Australia!)

• We're adding Cassowaries to our Outback exhibit – one of the

world's largest, most endangered, flightless birds.

Keep your eyes peeled for the many animals and birds that roam our zoo, calling it home. It's an exclusive look into the lives of earth's most marvelous and unique creatures – right in your own backyard!



Many naming opportunities available!





Zoo Entrance,
Discovery Center
& Plaza

Imagine hosting your corporate event at the Zoo's new, state of the art, 300+ person education and multi-purpose center, or bringing your grandkids to Zoo Tots in the spring, summer, fall and winter because more space is available for these sold-out classes, or hosting your daughter's wedding in the Zoo with a grand reception in the new center. All of these can happen when Blank Park Zoo renovates its current entrance.

- New membership/ticketing/ giftshop building
- New 300+ person multi-use space with private entrance
- New outdoor ticketing & plaza entry
- New, separate entrance to the **Discovery Center**
- Water features, bicycle parking, and public space

Many naming opportunities available!









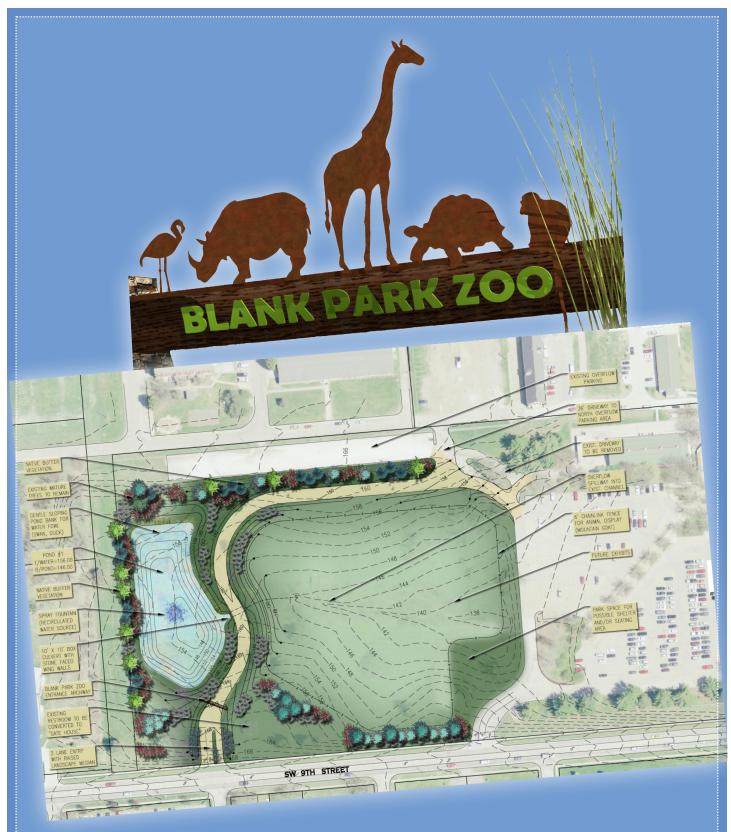
Blank Park Zoo around the State

- **555 programs** were conducted around the state in classrooms, libraries, day cares, senior centers, and at community events
- 28,930 people were impacted by those programs
- 124 teachers participated in the Zoo's teacher workshops impacting 4,475 students across the state
- **75 of the 99 counties** are represented by our membership base
- **35,588 miles** travelled by our Zoomobile to programs around the state
- Visitors from all 99 counties









A. H. Blank Park
Entrance

In the past 4 years, 144 accidents have occurred on SW 9th between Army Post Road and County Line Road - many of them

happening right in front of the Zoo's entrance. The current entrance was built in the 1980's for 150,000 visitors. With the Zoo currently reaching more than 400,000+ visitors each year, before any expansion can occur, the entrance to the Zoo needs to be addressed.

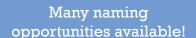
Just north of Blank Park Zoo's parking lot, lies A.H. Blank Park, a beautiful, but underutilized city park Blank Park Zoo is responsible for. As part of the first phase, the Zoo plans to move its entrance north through the park.

- New Zoo marquee/entry point
- Beautiful pond with native Iowa wildlife & pedestrian sidewalks
- New drive through the park

• New large hoof stock exhibit (Bactrian Camels, Takin, Elk, Bison)

 New public park including shelter, picnic tables, playground, and restrooms for public to use without having to pay Zoo admission.











Hands-On Interactive

Blank Park Zoo continues to be a highly regarded science education resource for Pre-K – 12 programs and

needs to include interactive educational components to all it's exhibits so students move from learning about the animals to understanding the environment in which they live, the biodiversity related to where they live in the wild, the environmental and conservation issues facing the animals and their

habitats and how animals and people interact in their native habitats.

Blank Park Zoo is committed to making sure all exhibits, new and old, moving forward have an interactive, educational component.

- Kid's Kingdom
- Discovery Center Aquariums
- Great Cats
- Australia
- Zoo Center
- Africa
- Wetlands







